

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

112/2008

15 October 2008

The Opposition has received representations from tenants of Cathay House in Varyl Begg Estate who have had no brackish water in their toilets for two weeks.

This is unrelated to the problem caused by the recent storm damage. Indeed, the supply of salt water to the Estate has been reconnected this morning and the Opposition has been told that Cathay House still has no water.

The Opposition understands that a water pipe which serves the block was damaged and that the contractors do not want to carry out the repair without the necessary authorization from the relevant Government department.

In the meantime, while this administrative problem is resolved, the lack of salt water is causing real difficulty and hardship to tenants of Cathay House, many of whom are elderly. They are forced to use drinking water to flush their toilets by filling and pouring in heavy buckets of water, which some of them who are infirm can only do with considerable difficulty, quite apart from the obvious expense.

The tenants have become so desperate that signatures were collected over the weekend for a petition which was handed in to the Housing department this Monday calling for action.

Commenting on the matter, Shadow Minister for Housing, Elderly Care and the Family Charles Bruzon said:

“These people are the victims of an administrative problem between the Government and their contractors and the situation is totally unacceptable. The Government should show some humanity and act forthwith to resolve this matter.”

ENDS